

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Silvia Glück et al.

Application No.: 10/560,455

Confirmation No.: 3072

Filed: December 14, 2005

Art Unit: 1651

For: METHOD FOR THE MICROBIOLOGICAL  
ISOMERISATION OF ALPHA-HYDROXY  
CARBOXYLIC ACIDS

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Examiner: Irene Marx

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 24, 2008, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-7 and 18-22, for further prosecution with traverse. Applicants believe that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to search this invention.

Furthermore, unity of invention was found during the International stage. As shown in the International Preliminary Examination Report and International Search Report, all claims were searched and examined together. Thus, application of PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 by the International Examiners shows that unity exists. Since the search has already been conducted by the International Search Authority and the International Examination Authority and no lack of unity of invention has been found, for this additional reason, there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to examine all Groups in one application.

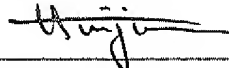
For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this restriction requirement.

Applicants reserve all rights to pursue the non-elected species in one or more divisional

application.

Applicants are submitting their response within the one-month response period. No fee is believed due. However, if any fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13111-00027-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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